



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1948

By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.)

*Health Department,
Plymyard,
Eastham, Cheshire.*



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Annual Report, 1948

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Corporation of Bebington.

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My ninth Annual Report is naturally presented in a curtailed form, the Maternity and Child Welfare Services having been taken over by the Cheshire County Council, and my report therefore deals only with infectious diseases and the epidemiology generally affecting the Borough. Birth and death statistics continue to be compiled and presented, and all points of interest in the general health and environmental sanitation problems of the Borough are submitted to you for your consideration.

One new power to your Council has come into force under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, i.e.

(1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect for the purposes of securing the necessary care and attention for persons who—

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

(2) If the Medical Officer of Health certifies in writing to the appropriate authority that he is satisfied after thorough inquiry and consideration that in the interests of any such person as aforesaid residing in the area of the authority, or for preventing injury to the health of, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person as aforesaid from the premises in which he is residing, the appropriate authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction having jurisdiction in the place where the premises are situated for an order under the next following subsection.

This clause gives a long sought for authority in the care and disposal of aged or infirm persons no longer able to look after themselves. It will be evident to the Council that this new power in our hands must be applied in the most humane manner possible and not acted upon until every other remedy has been exhausted. In 1948 it was necessary to take action under this section in only one case. Two other cases under consideration resolved themselves, one by death and one by voluntary removal from the district of the person concerned. At the time of writing this report one other case is under consideration.

Birth and Death Rates.

The birth rate for Bebington is a fraction less than the birth rate for the country as a whole, namely 17.2 per 1,000 as against 17.9 per 1,000.

The death rate for Bebington continues to show a decrease on the death rate for the country as a whole, namely 9.2 as against 10.8 per 1,000, and is a lower rate also than for Bebington in 1947 which showed a rate of 10.1 per 1,000.

I regret to report that the infantile mortality figure, although lower than in 1947, is still higher than that for the rest of the country, namely 45.5 as compared with 34.0 per 1,000 births. This mortality rate is spoilt for Bebington by the deaths of infants through prematurity, which were 14 in number, 13 of which occurred in hospital. The death rate attributable to this cause is considerably higher than in 1947 when there were 936 births, 10 of which were noted as being due to prematurity. The births for 1948 are 832, and the deaths due to prematurity number 14. I ask myself in how far the shortage-of-housing-for-young-people factor bears on this question and, perhaps more important still, is the young mother to-day getting sufficient nourishment during her carrying period. On this latter point I think not, as it is my experience amongst all classes of the community that the young mother to-day is cutting down her own food for the benefit of her husband and children.

As regards the lower number of births in 1948 as compared with 1947 and 1946, I think this may be accounted for by the levelling down to normal of the immediate post-war conditions, and in this connection I would draw attention to the rate of illegitimacy which is very considerably reduced.

I am glad to say that the maternity mortality rate does not call for comment.

Immunisation:

The Council will no doubt continue its interest in immunisation as it relates to the infectious diseases of diphtheria and whooping cough, and I therefore give the figures for 1948, namely, diphtheria immunisation: 581 children under five, 124 children of school age; whooping cough immunisation: 282 children under five. In the case of diphtheria immunisation the total represents a ten per cent. increase over the 1947 figure, and for whooping cough immunisation a decrease of approximately twelve per cent. The two cases of whooping cough shown on p. 16 as having been immunised were both mild cases.

Water Supply.

Regarding the water supply of the Borough of Bebington upon which I have been instructed to report by the Ministry of Health, I have collaborated with C. Hardman, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board, and we are in mutual agreement with the following report:—

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep wells, bores and adits through the installation of steam and electrically-driven machinery.

The No. 6 borehole at Hooton has been in continuous service since June 25th, 1948, and by means of temporary pumping plants an average of about 860,000 gallons of water per day have been obtained from this new bore.

A further borehole (No. 7) is in course of construction, about 600 feet to the north of the No. 6 bore, and this will be driven to about 1,000 feet below the surface and be generally similar in size to No. 6 bore mentioned above.

The water from the three Pumping Stations contains much lime, and the following remarks are identical with those contained in my report for 1947, as so far the West Cheshire Water Board has not been able to revert to its pre-war softening standards; in the case of Prenton to 13.5 p.p. 100,000 before it is distributed, but owing to present conditions, softening operations are suspended pro-tem and sterilisation by chloramination is carried out; in Hooton the water is filtered by Candy pressure process for the removal of a slight trace of iron, and is then softened to 13.5 p.p. chlorination; in Mouldsworth in normal times the water is softened to about 13.5 p.p. 100,000, but owing to present conditions

softening operations are reduced pro-tem and the water is softened from about 30.5 to 25.5 p.p. 100,000 followed by chloramination. The Board intend, however, to resume full-scale softening operations at the earliest possible moment.

The pH reaction from our source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7 to 7.5 and is non-plumbo solvent. The samples from the various sources are bright in appearance, most frequently neutral in reaction, and free from iron and other metals with the exception of the supply from Mouldsworth Pumping Station which shows a negligible trace of iron. All three sources produce a pure and wholesome water suitable for the public supply purposes.

Twenty-four witnessed and certified analyses were submitted by the West Cheshire Water Board to my department during the year 1948.

During the year 1948 no independent analyses of water have been made by this Council of samples provided by the West Cheshire Water Board.

Food Inspection.

I would draw the attention of the Council to the number of food premises in the Borough amounting to some four hundred, and to the necessity, in view of the shortage of food, of thorough and regular inspection of food premises, particularly in respect of tinned, recooked and preserved foods.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has in former years drawn the attention of the Council to this matter, but in view of what appears to be the increasing difficulty in these days of obtaining adequate and good food, I feel strongly there is room for reconsideration by the Council of an increase in the inspectorial staff for the purpose of more frequent and thorough inspection of food premises.

I am, Your Worship, Aldermen, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. and Glas.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector : E. V. CRAPPER, F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,
M.I.P.H. and H.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector : A. DAVIDSON.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors : T. TOWNSON, E. CAINES, T. OWEN.

One Van Driver, one Drain Tester, one Disinfector (part-time).

Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk : Miss E. M. GLIDEWELL.

Three Shorthand Typists. One Telephonist.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (end of 1948)	46,780
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948)	13,260
Rateable Value (end of 1948)	£373,202
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£1,485

Births.

Numbered of Registered Live Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	397	383	780
Illegitimate	10	19	29
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	407	402	809
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Number of Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	11	12	23
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	11	12	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Number of Births (Live and Still) :—

Male.		Female.		Total.
418	...	414	.....	832

Deaths.

Male.		Female.		Total.
206	...	226	...	432

Deaths from :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	5
All other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Deaths (under 1 year) :—

				Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	14	...	21	...	35
Illegitimate	...	...		1	...	1	...	2
				—		—		—
Total	...	...		15	...	22	...	37
				—		—		—

Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1948.

Births (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—

	Bebington.	England and Wales.	126 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	148 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000 1931 Census).
Stillbirths	0.48 ...	0.42 ...	0.52 ...	0.43
Live Births	17.2 ...	17.9 ...	20.0 ...	19.2

Deaths (per 1,000 civilian pop.) :—

All Causes	9.2 ...	10.8 ...	11.6 ...	10.7
Pneumonia	0.19 ...	0.41 ...	0.38 ...	0.36
Whooping Cough .	0.00 ...	0.02 ...	0.02 ...	0.02
Diphtheria	0.02 ...	0.00 ...	0.00 ...	0.00
Influenza	0.01 ...	0.03 ...	0.03 ...	0.04

Deaths (per 1,000 live births) :—

Under 1 year of age	45.5 ...	34.0 ..	39.9 ...	32.0
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4.9 ...	3.3 ...	4.5 ...	2.1

Deaths (per 1,000 total births) :—

Maternal Mortality :—

Abortion with Sepsis...	0.00 ...	0.11	Figures not communicated.	
Abortion without Sepsis.	0.00 ...	0.05		
Puerperal Infection ...	0.00 ...	0.13		
Others	1.2 ...	0.73		
	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.02</u>		

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (Bebington).

All infants per 1,000 Total Live Births	45.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births...	44.8

Comparative Rates.

	Bebington 1947.	Bebington 1948.	England and Wales, 1948.
Per 1,000 Population :—			
Birth Rate—Live Births	19.6	17.2	17.9
Death Rate	10.1	9.2	10.8
Per, 1000 Births :—			
Infant Mortality Rate	51.3	45.3	34.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.09	1.2	1.02

Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9	9	18
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
9. Influenza	1	—	1
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute inf. encephalitis	—	—	—
13m. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (male)	1	—	1
13f. Cancer of Uterus (females)	—	6	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	5	12
15. Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	19	17	36
17. Diabetes	2	2	4
17. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	31	21	52
19. Heart Disease	61	67	128
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	11	13	24
21. Bronchitis	7	7	14
22. Pneumonia	4	5	9
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	3	4
26. Appendicitis	—	4	4
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	7	9
28. Nephritis	8	3	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth	2	11	13
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	9	4	13
33. Suicide	2	3	5
34. Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
35. Other Violent Causes	5	3	8
36. All other Causes	19	24	43
TOTAL ...	206	226	432

Table of Infantile Mortality

(Under One Year).

Rate per 1,000 Births.

1933	...	...	...	61.0	1941	...	...	...	52.6
1934	...	...	...	48.0	1942	...	...	...	28.0
1935	...	...	...	62.8	1943	...	...	...	62.8
1936	...	...	...	50.0	1944	...	...	...	42.0
1937	...	...	...	49.0	1945	...	...	...	49.0
1938	...	...	...	40.0	1946	...	...	...	51.0
1939	...	...	...	43.5	1947	...	...	...	51.3
1940	...	...	...	67.2	1948	...	...	...	45.5

England and Wales, 1948—34.0).

The total number of deaths of infants during the twelve months in 1948 was 37. Of these 26 were neo-natal deaths, which were distributed as follows:—

Neo-Natal Deaths. (Under One Month).

Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atresia of Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Macrocephalia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	14
Atelectasis of Lung	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (Broncho or Lobar)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Profound Weakness	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intestinal Obstruction	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	1

26

The other 11 deaths were caused as follows:

Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gastro-Enteritis	2
Shock	2
Hysterectomy	1
Necrosis	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1

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Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1948.

(a) Total cases.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	76	59
Diphtheria	31†	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2
Pneumonia—Acute Primary	39	18
Acute Influenzal	1	1
Erysipelas	11	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—
Measles	439	5
Whooping Cough	104*	—
Total	709	121

†Of these 31 cases 30 were confirmed by hospital diagnosis, and 4 had been immunised.

* Of these 104 cases 2 had been immunised.

(b) Ward Distribution.

Disease	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	12	1	23	4	—	11	2	13	7	3	76
Diphtheria	—	3	9	8	—	—	—	3	8	—	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	3	—	8	11	—	1	1	3	3	10	40
Erysipelas	1	—	2	6	—	—	1	1	—	—	11
Cerebro-spinal Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	18	9	132	110	1	32	33	63	20	21	439
Whooping Cough	8	5	51	22	3	6	—	6	3	—	104
Totals	42	19	227	163	4	51	37	90	41	35	709

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area :—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made	Total for 1948	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellingshouses Inspected ...	967	625	—	—	—	—
Do. Re-inspected ...	2700	—	233	645	292	5
Overcrowding ...	237	—	—	—	—	—
Houses Let in Lodgings ...	16	2	—	—	2	1
Offices ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds ...	49	1	1	1	—	2
Courts, Passages ...	45	17	6	15	13	—
House Drainage ...	873	267	72	267	128	3
Privy Middens ...	933	318	41	310	70	—
Cesspools ...	33	—	—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses ...	51	3	2	—	2	—
Offensive Accumulations ...	87	3	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ...	33	—	1	1	—	1
Slaughterhouses ...	432	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops ...	53	1	—	1	—	—
Grocers ...	92	3	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises ...	118	—	—	—	—	—
Other Food Premises ...	134	2	—	7	—	—
Fish and Chip Shops ...	13	1	—	—	1	—
Piggeries ...	48	—	1	—	1	—
Dairies ...	247	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ...	107	—	—	—	—	—
Sediment Tests ...	40	—	—	—	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power ...	14	1	—	1	—	—
Do Without Power ...	18	1	—	1	—	—
Workplaces... ...	16	1	—	—	1	—
Bakehouses... ...	21	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations ...	16	—	1	—	1	—
Public Schools ...	61	—	—	—	3	—
Private Schools ...	22	3	—	1	2	—
Places of Entertainment ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences ...	27	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises... ...	125	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Inquiries ...	248	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Revisits ...	16	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning Investigations ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Welfare Visits ...	21	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises ...	461	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	269	2	—	2	—	—
Appointments outside Office ...	161	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	8846	1581	358	1252	516	12

Overcrowding.

There were 66 overcrowded cases known to this Department at the end of the year, but these only refer to statutory overcrowding which in every case is serious because of its low standard. Consultations are constantly taking place between this Department and the House Property Manager, and as will be seen by the statistics, 33 cases were rehoused by the Corporation. It is the hope of the Medical Officer of Health and myself that the remaining cases can be dealt with during the forthcoming year.

Of the 66 overcrowding cases that involved 410 persons:—
In 18 instances it equalled $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent adult involving 96 persons.

„ 27	„	„	1	„	„	„	145	„
„ 9	„	„	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	„	„	„	62	„
„ 4	„	„	2	„	„	„	29	„
„ 4	„	„	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	„	„	„	35	„
„ 3	„	„	3	„	„	„	32	„
„ 1	„	„	4	„	„	„	11	„

Housing Repairs.

The continued housing shortage prohibits the effective search for housing defects; in many houses minor defects are becoming more numerous and lack of maintenance is causing unnecessary deterioration. Numerous visits to every house where defects are found are necessary; in pre-war days the maximum number was seven or eight (excluding visits to supervise work in progress); now this figure is trebled. Some owners of property, limited in their rent, are faced with heavy expenditure on the one hand and dis-satisfied tenants on the other, and the sanitary inspector has to deal with many difficult and conflicting problems in his attempt to do his duty to tenants living under unsatisfactory conditions and property owners who frequently are the victims of a financial position that discourages repair work.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No licences were issued in regard to camping grounds, but the Department had some difficulty in regard to the use of land for caravans, particularly those of the gipsy type, where trespassing took place, and this is a matter where land owners have not co-operated with the Council to the fullest extent. Where trespassing takes place a notification to the police should be sufficient to ensure immediate ejection from the land occupied, but the constant illegal occupation of certain land has created a fouling of ditches and great annoyance to legitimate occupiers.

Courts and Passages.

These are regularly visited.

Sanitary Conveniences.

There are still :—

32 privies, 57 pail closets, 49 earth closets and 8 chemical closets, in addition to the chemical closets provided for the use of huts in camps.

One privy was converted into a water closet during the year, and one house, not previously supplied with water, was put on a main supply. In addition three houses previously obtaining their water from one standpipe were dealt with by notice and internal water supply provided to each house.

Certificates of Disrepair.

1 Certificate of Disrepair was issued to tenants under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act.

House Drainage.

380 Smoke Tests were applied to house drains, most of these were in consequence of sanitary notices or following reconstruction or repair work.

Disinfection.

325 Beds were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

1080 Other articles were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

83 Rooms were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

118 Library Books were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

(The above includes bedding, etc., from Ellesmere Port and Hoylake).

Disinfestation.

Rooms treated for vermin 562

Beds treated for vermin 4

Cesspools.

There are 287 houses drained to cesspools and septic tanks and these installations are regularly visited.

Public Schools.

These are visited at regular intervals.

Private Schools.

These were all visited during the year and certain improvements in regard to sanitary conveniences effected.

Licensed Premises.

A decided improvement is noted in regard to the handling of beer, and the various Brewery Companies have co-operated in an effort to ensure a satisfactory control over this commodity. Samples have been regularly taken and found to be free from pathogenic organisms.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses.

The following statistics refer to animals killed at the slaughterhouse which serves the districts of Bebington, Hoylake, Ellesmere Port, Neston and Wirral:—

A—whole carcass condemned.

B—carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.

C—percentage of number affected with (a) T.B., (b) with diseases other than T.B.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	2740	2081	1871	17963	152	24807
Ante-mortem inspection including supervision of humane slaughter	2740	2081	1871	17963	152	24807
Notice of slaughter received	2740	2081	1871	17963	152	24807
Emergency notifications ...	3	28	5	45	58	139
Post-Mortem inspection ...	2740	2081	1871	17963	152	24807
Tuberculosis.						
A	11	51	2	—	2	66
B	365	719	8	—	20	1112
C (a)	13.72 %	37.00 %	.53 %	—	14.47 %	4.74 %
All Diseases except T.B.						
A	3	3	14	40	7	67
B	1238	1253	10	1194	21	3716
C (b)	45.29 %	60.83 %	1.28 %	6.89%	11.11%	15.21%

The high percentage of tuberculosis still continues, and it is felt that the place of origin of all tubercular animals found at the slaughterhouse should be investigated, and it is evident that greater attention is needed in regard to the eradication of disease from food animals by a more comprehensive routine veterinary inspection of live animals.

Many cowsheds in various districts still fall short of the standards applied in this area and are below legal requirements, and until we recognise the environmental influence of good housing upon the cattle population, as we do with human housing in its relation to tuberculosis, we will not progress as quickly as we should. Light, ventilation, cleanliness and ample space, so neces-

sary for clean and pure milk production, are conspicuous by their absence in those milk producing areas where administration of the Milk and Dairies Orders is not efficiently carried out, and it is a much wider area of milk consumers who are affected by an unsatisfactory milk supply.

Unsound Food.

The undermentioned food was found upon examination to be unsound and unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered :—

12867 tins Vegetables.	307 tins Milk.
35 tins Mussels.	142 tins Soup.
108 tins Fruit.	1 tin Orange Juice.
5 tins Marmalade.	49 tins Fish.
43 tins Meat.	40½ lbs. Butter.
1½ doz. Potted Herrings.	102 pkts. Lingfords Bar-
4 stone Herrings.	ley Pudding Mixture.
4 stone Plaice.	2 tinned Dinners.
10 fowl (weight 42 lbs.	6 tins Spaghetti.
5 oz.)	1 pkt. Cake Flour.
18 tins Jam.	9 lbs. Flour.
10 oz. Smoked Bacon.	1 tin Horseraddish.
3 tinned Puddings.	1 bushel Pears.
50 lbs. Pears.	40 jars Pickles.
10 stone Soles.	11 stone Smoked Fillets.
1 tin Dried Egg.	1 jar Potted Meat.
6½ lbs. Cheesc.	1 tin Tomato Juice.
1 tin Coffee.	44 tins Lemon Cheese.
37½ lbs. Prunes.	39 bottles Chocolate
1 jar Fish Paste.	Spread.
9 stone Headless Cod.	

In addition to the above the following food was seized and condemned by a magistrate :—

10,162 tins Peas and Beans (A/2s).
1,926 tins Peas and Beans (6/10).
630 tins Assorted Vegetables.

Routine Visits to Food Premises.

There are :—

37	Butchers.
20	Dairies.
51	Cowsheds.
59	Grocers.
22	Bakehouses.
32	Confectioners.
15	Fried Fish Shops.
63	Ice-cream Shops.
39	Greengrocers and Fishmongers.

These, in addition to the many canteens and catering establishments, are kept under supervision as far as time permits. The production of food under hygienic conditions is of paramount importance, and it is only by frequent visits that the need for strict cleanliness in every aspect of food handling can be emphasised. From long experience I stress the value of "elbow grease" and good old-fashioned cleanliness as of far greater importance than expensive plant and sterilisation.

Milk Production.

As in other types of food production, cleanliness is the most important factor in milk production—cleanliness of milkers' hands, the cows themselves, milk utensils and the cloths and water used for cleansing the udders and teats. Too often we find cloths being dipped into dirty water and sediment tests have proved the result of this procedure. Milk production will soon be taken out of the hands of local authorities, and control over our milk supply will be divided; the Ministry of Agriculture will deal with production and the local authority with retail supplies. Time will prove the effects of this removal from local administration.

From a structural point of view the cowsheds of this area are satisfactory. Much work has been done to achieve this position, and now that buildings are more hygienic the personal element must not be forgotten.

Early morning visits to cowsheds continued through the year, and sediment tests once again proved useful in demonstrating to the producer on the spot whether his methods were satisfactory or otherwise.

Only 57 tests were possible owing to pressure of other work, but the percentage of cleanliness was the highest since we commenced our sediment testing in 1937, viz., 88 %.

The figures for the last new years are as follows :—

1937 ...	No. of tests	254	Cleanliness percentage	60%
1938 ...	„	160	„	61.2%
1939 ...	„	66	„	61%
1940 ...	„	254	„	61.27%
1941 ...	„	85	„	63.5%
1942 ...	„	104	„	53.46%
1943 ...	„	25	„	31%
1944 ...	„	42	„	38.2%
1945 ...	„	102	„	60.7%
1946 ...	„	118	„	63%
1947 ...	„	120	„	84%
1948 ...	„	57	„	88%

The standard of cleanliness is a local one and has always had a high target.

During 1948 the following producers obtained 100% cleanliness :—

Morris Griffiths of Manor Farm, Eastham.
 R. Leech of Storeton House Farm, Storeton.
 T. Slack of Woodseat Farm, Eastham.
 C. Shakeshaft of Home Farm, Brimstage.

Milk Samples.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of T.B. is concerned over the past 18 years :—

	No.	T.B.	% T.B.
Commercial Milk	1224 ...	59 ...	—
Accredited	1616 ...	101 ...	—
T.T.	97 ...	— ...	—
T.T. (Certified)	87 ...	1 ...	—
Pasteurised	41 ...	— ...	—

Milk sold as pasteurised is continuously checked to satisfy the tests for efficient pasteurisation, and these tests, known as phosphatase tests, gave the following results, together with bacteriological results :—

Bacteriological.					Phosphatase.			
	No.	Taken.	Passed.	Failed.	No.	Taken.	Passed.	Failed.
Schools	76	66	10	...	76	76	—	...
Hospitals	4	4	0	...	4	4	—	...

Dairies.

There are still a few dairies without means of steam sterilisation, but it is noteworthy that their sample results do not differ to their disadvantage from those with up-to-date equipment. Strict attention to cleanliness in every respect has achieved more than the purchase of expensive plant. One would like to see means of steam sterilisation available at every dairy, but not to the exclusion of personal effort. There have been occasions when steam sterilisation has been carried out without efficient cleansing of bottles and unsatisfactory results have followed.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

These Regulations came into force during the year, and are entailing considerable extra work. The hygienic conditions of preparation are being carefully watched, and on the whole, the conditions under which this commodity is being produced compare favourably with those under which other foods are being manufactured.

Mortuary Accommodation.

The Council's two mortuaries are cleansed by workmen of the sanitary department. They are always maintained in a condition fit for immediate use, either for the reception of bodies or holding post-mortem examinations. No complaints have been received either from the doctors using the mortuaries, or the police.

Legal Proceedings.

The following prosecutions were dealt with during the year :—
21 summonses for failing to carry out housing repairs.

There were :—

3 penalties of £5, one with Court Order.

1 penalty of £2 with Court Order.

There were :—

2 Court Orders, without penalties.

10 cases were withdrawn owing to work having been carried out.

One summons for keeping cats so as to be a nuisance.

Court Order for 7 days and costs.

One summons for filling in a drain without giving notice of intention to do so.

Fined £1.

One summons against an occupier of a van for failing to move his van to site provided with sanitary accommodation and water supply.

Court Order for 14 days.

One summons for failing to comply with above Court Order.

Fined 5/-.

One summons for contravention of Lodging House Byelaws.

Fined £4.

One case of a person suffering from physical incapacity and in need of proper care and attention.

Court Order for removal to Clatterbridge Hospital.

SHOPS ACTS AND YOUNG PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT, 1938.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Chief Inspector under the Shops Act, 1912-34, reports as follows:—

The administration of the Shops Acts is divided under these headings:—

Responsibility of local authority as Shops Act Authority:

Hours of employment of young persons.

Facilities for meals and provision of seats for females.

Hours of closing, weekly half day.

Sunday trading, etc.

Provision of washing facilities and light.

Responsibility of local authority as local sanitary authority:

Provision of sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature.

During the year the following notices were served:—

Failure to provide facilities for meals...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ sufficient ventilation	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ sufficient temperature	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ washing facilities	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	4

Warnings were given in regard to the following offences:—

1912 Act.

Failure to exhibit half holiday notices	...	...	...	6
Failure to grant half holiday	...	...	...	1
Failure to provide seats for females	2

1928 Act.

Shop open after closing hours	1
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1934 Act.

Excessive hours of employment	1
Failure to record hours of employment	6
Correct interval for meals not allowed...	...	...	...	1
Notices re seats not exhibited	...	...	...	3
Abstract of Act not exhibited	...	...	...	5

Sunday Trading.

Record of employment not entered	...	...	...	3
Failure to exhibit notices re opening	...	...	...	2

RODENT CONTROL.

Upon being aware of rat or mouse infestation, informal notices are served upon occupiers informing them that they are under an obligation to rid their premises of rats or mice, but that the local authority will carry out the necessary work if they wish to enter into an agreement.

Methods of Control.

Poisoning was found to be the quickest and most effective method of killing rats, and 85 to 90 per cent. kill on first treatment was obtained.

Bait of sausage rusk with poison of zinc phosphide was found most effective, but where poison with phosphorus had already been used, we found it was advisable to change to arsenic. Hole baiting, container baiting and surface baiting were all used with good results.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out:—

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor Secondary.	Supervisory Visits by S.I.'s.
Inspections.				
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	...	60	—
By Rat Catchers ...	—	...	235	—
Revisits.				
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	7	77	—
By Rat Catchers ...	—	429	1461	—
Supervisory Visits by Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	—	—	66
	—	436	1833	66
Number of complaints	106
Number of complaints investigated	106
Type of Visit Made.				
Dwellinghouses	1032
Factories and Workplaces	671
Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes...	9
Offices	1
Shops	160
Schools	20
Refuse Tips	46
Sewers and Drains	64
Non-Agricultural Land	152
Places of Entertainment	29
Camps	33
Piggeries	1
Nurseries	40
Hospitals	32
Farms	5
Licensed Premises	45
				2335
Number of advice notices served	30
Number of estimates provided	67
Number of contracts signed	54
Estimated number of rats found during 1948	2994
Estimated number of rats killed during 1948	4492
52 Contracts for £438 2s. 6d.				

